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very important paper by Mr. Ridgway characterizes the families of the *Herodiones*, and the subdivisions and genera, chiefly of the *Ardeidæ*. The precision of definition exhibited in this paper gives it a first rank in scientific work of its kind, offering an example worthy of imitation in all departments. We observe, however, that the learned author thinks it necessary to employ generic names for groups characterized by size and color, and forms of feathers which are sometimes only seasonal, and sometimes very slightly differentiated, a custom which is not adopted by students of other classes of *Vertebrata*. Dr. Coues furnishes interesting accounts of the consolidated hoofs of certain individuals of *Cariacus virginianus* and *Sus scropha*. His conclusion regarding the latter is stated in the following rather too highly figurative language: "The upshot of this modification of the foot is, that a strictly artiodactyle animal is transformed into an imperfectly perissodactyle one. As far as the hoof is concerned the pig is completely solidungulate." There are entomological articles by Messrs. Scudder, Grote and Chambers, and two palæontological ones by Prof. Cope. One of the latter is a reply to Prof. Owen's criticism of Prof. Cope's writings on the Pythonomorphous reptiles. An article by Drs. Coues and Yarrow gives useful information regarding the geographical distribution of Batrachia and reptiles of Dakota and Montana. But we cannot see why the authors should again describe the dentition of the genus *Crotalus*, and the well-known characters of the teeth of *Heterodon*, which may be found in any of the general herpetological works. The distribution of the *Eutania proxima* is erroneously given as extending over the entire United States west of the eastern region. Its range is N. E. Mexico, Texas and part of the Mississippi Valley.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—Die Coelenteraten, Echinodermen und Würmer, der K. K. Österreichisch-Ungarischen Nordpol Expedition. Von Dr. Emil v. Marenzeller. Wien 1877. 4to, pp. 42.

Darwin; or God in Nature. By Robert McK. Ormsby. Second Edition. New York. Masonic Publishing and Furnishing Co. 1878. 12mo, pp. 69.

Brehm's Thierleben. Band iii, Heft 9-14 vii. 1-2. Leipzig, 1878. New York: B. Westermann & Co. 8vo. 40 cents a Heft.

Twelfth Annual Report of the Commissioners on Inland Fisheries for the year ending January 1, 1878. Boston. 1878. 8vo, pp. 64.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. xix. Part II. Boston. 1877. 8vo, pp. 111.

Notes on the Mineralogy and Petrography of Boston and vicinity. By M. Edward Wadsworth. (From the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History xix.) 8vo, pp. 21.

Fifth and Sixth Annual Reports of the Curators of the Museum of Wesleyan University. Including a History of the Museum from its Formation. Middletown, Conn. 1877. 8vo, pp. 26.

A List of the Species of the Tribe Aphidini, family Aphidæ, found in the United States, which have been heretofore named, with descriptions of some new species. By Cyrus Thomas. (From Bulletin No. 2, Ill. State Lab. of Nat. Hist.) 8vo, pp. 14.

Report on the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region. By J. W. Powell. Washington, D. C. 1877. 8vo, pp. 19.